

JEREMIAH SMITH.

MARCH 3, 1851.

Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WALDO, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Jeremiah Smith, respectfully report:*

The petitioner is a colored man, and was the servant of John Smith, who, it is claimed, was a colonel, residing in Johnson county, in the State of North Carolina, during the revolutionary war. The petitioner represents that he served in the revolutionary war almost the whole time; was often engaged by the officers of the army to carry expresses, and performed the services committed to his charge with fidelity and to the satisfaction of his employers; that he did much service in the Revolution, and all in his power to establish the independence of the States.

The petitioner does not claim to have been attached to any particular company or regiment of the continental army, nor does he claim to have performed any other service in the war of the Revolution than such as was usually done by servants or waiters, who have never received any gratuity from government therefor. Nor does the petitioner sustain his claim by any proof except his own oath. It cannot be supposed that Congress will at the present time create a new class of pensioners by directing the names of waiters and servants to be placed upon the pension list; and if they should take this step, it is to be presumed some other evidence of the service of applicants would be required besides their own statement. Inasmuch as the service claimed to have been performed by the petitioner is not of a character to entitle him to a pension, and as he has neglected to verify his service in the ordinary way, the committee are of opinion that the prayer of his petition should be denied, and they recommend that the petition be laid upon the table.

